

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A magnetic head slider comprising a magnetic head for recording/reproducing information from/into a magnetic disk and a slider on which the magnetic head is mounted, wherein said slider has a first positive pressure generating portion provided at an air-inflow side and a positive pressure generating portion surface provided at an air-outflow side, projections being provided at the air-inflow side at positions with respect to said first positive pressure generating portion on a first surface which faces the magnetic disk upon read/write operation of the magnetic head slider.

2. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 1, wherein said slider has a step surface provided at the air-inflow side with respect to said first positive pressure generating portion and having a level lower than said first positive pressure generating portion, and at least a negative pressure generation portion is provided at the air-outflow side and having a level lower than said step surface, said projections being provided on said step surface which is said first surface.

3. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 2, wherein a difference in the levels of said positive pressure generating portion surface and said step surface is less than 300 nm.

4. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 3, wherein a difference in the levels of said first positive pressure generating portion and said step surface is less than 200 nm.

5. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 2, wherein said first positive pressure generating portion and said step surface constitute a flying pad.

6. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 1, wherein said projections have a cylindrical shape and a diameter of 0.01-0.1 mm.

7. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 1, wherein said projections have a planar end surface.

8. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 1, wherein said projections have a curved end surface.

9. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 2, wherein said first surface includes a central step surface provided at a center of said first positive pressure generating portion in a widthwise direction of the slider.

10. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 9, wherein said central step surface has a level substantially the same as said step surface.

11. (original) A magnetic head slider according to claim 1, wherein said second positive pressure generating portion is provided at a center in a widthwise direction of the slider.

~~13~~12. (currently amended) A magnetic head slider according to claim 1, wherein said projections are provided outside of said first positive pressure generating portion in a widthwise direction of the slider.

~~14~~13. (currently amended) A magnetic head slider according to claim 1, wherein said first positive pressure generating portion and said second positive pressure generating portion are separated by a third negative pressure generation portion having a level which is lower than a level of said first positive pressure generating portion and said second positive pressure generating portion.

~~15~~14. A magnetic disk apparatus comprising a magnetic head slider including a magnetic head for recording/reproducing information from/into a magnetic disk and a slider on which the magnetic head is mounted, wherein said slider has a first positive pressure generating portion provided at an air-inflow side and a second positive pressure generating portion provided at an air-outflow side, projections being provided at the air-inflow side at positions with respect to said first positive pressure generating portion on a first surface which faces the magnetic disk upon read/write operation of the magnetic

head slider.

~~46~~15. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim ~~14~~15, wherein said slider has a step surface provided at the air-inflow side with respect to said first positive pressure generating portion and having a level lower than said first positive pressure generating portion, and at least a negative pressure generation portion surface provided at the air-outflow side and having a level lower than said step surface, said projections being provided on said step surface which is said first surface.

~~47~~16. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim~~46~~15, wherein a difference in the levels of said first positive pressure generating portion and said step surface is less than 300 nm.

~~48~~17. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim~~47~~16, wherein a difference in the levels of said first positive pressure generating portion and said step surface is less than 200 nm.

~~49~~18. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim~~46~~15, wherein said first positive pressure generating portion and said step surface constitute a flying pad.

~~20~~19. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim~~45~~14, wherein said projections have a cylindrical shape and a

diameter of 0.01-0.1 mm.

~~21~~20. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim ~~15~~14, wherein said projections have a planar end surface.

~~22~~21. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim ~~15~~14, wherein said projections have a curved end surface.

~~23~~22. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim ~~16~~15, wherein said first surface includes a central step surface provided at a center of the first positive pressure generating portion in a widthwise direction of the slider.

~~24~~23. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim ~~23~~22, wherein said central step surface has a level substantially the same as said step surface.

~~25~~24. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim ~~15~~14, wherein said second positive pressure generating portion is provided at a center in a widthwise direction of the slider.

~~26~~25. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim ~~15~~14, wherein said projections are provided outside of the first positive pressure generating portion in a widthwise direction of the slider.

~~27~~26. (currently amended) A magnetic disk apparatus according to claim ~~15~~14, wherein said first positive pressure generating portion and said second positive pressure generating portion are separated by a third negative pressure generation portion having a level which is lower than a level of said first positive pressure generating portion and said second positive pressure generating portion.